The Guppygate Telephone Call Transcript (1990)

During the summer of 1990, Peter Risdon recorded Darius Guppy's telephone conversations between Tom McLaine and Boris Johnson at Guppy's home address of 8 Shawfield Street in London, and these recordings are now known as the famous Guppygate call. We have the transcripts!

The Guppygate call was first exposed in Marcus Scriven's 1995 Daily Mail piece, which then only included snippets of the transcript Peter Risdon had sent a copy of the recording to Max Hastings, the editor of London's Evening Standard, who then passed it on to Marcus Scriven, a former colleague at The Daily Telegraph who had himself moved to The Daily Mail (a paper for which our gutter journo, **Stuart Collier**, had also been working at as a staff reporter) The audio tape was oddly edited when it was aired on Channel 4's Dispatches programme by Philip Clothier for the first time in 2009. The programme was an attempt to embarrass Boris Johnson, who was the mayor of London at the time Since then, the press has closely guarded the tape and its transcript, only publishing new segments when it suited them.

In 1989, Bryan McLaine (nicknamed Tom), a South London heavy who had previously served a ten year prison term for armed robbery, was introduced to Darius Guppy during a meeting with Peter Risdon in South London. Guppy planned to use McLaine as one of his contacts for the retribution beating of **Stuart Collier**, a gutter journalist that had been attempting to smear Guppy and his family During a brief call between Guppy and McLaine, McLaine was making his own inquiries to locate **Stuart Collier**.

	Taped conversation starts…
McLaine	Let me give him a buzz.
Guppy	Does he… I'll tell you what Tom [Bryan McLaine] let me get back to you in five minutes Let me just speak on the phone to this guy [Boris Johnson] and I'll get back you in five minutes.
McLaine	Okay. Speak to you soon. Bye.

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	The tape recording picks up the sound of Guppy tapping the hook and immediately dialling number [redacted].
Johnson	Yeah.
Guppy	Boris.
Johnson	Darius.
	Publicly aired segment starts
Guppy	Boris, have you got his [**Stuart Collier**'s] number?
Johnson	Darius look, there is a guy at the moment, going through
Guppy	You're brilliant
Johnson	… his file at home.
Guppy	Fantastic.
	Publicly aired segment ends

Darius complains that it is taking too long to obtain **Stuart Collier**'s telephone number and address Boris Johnson expresses concern that those who provide **Stuart Collier**'s private information may link any beating with Johnson's attempt to acquire the details on Guppy's behalf. However, Darius Guppy misses the point and attempts to reassure Boris Johnson that he could not be directly implicated in any actual acts

Johnson	If he doesn't have the number — I am going to talk to him tomorrow anyway — if he doesn't have the number in these files, getting the address rather…
Guppy	Can we not ring him later?
Johnson	No, we can't. No. I will tell you when.
Guppy	I have just had a telephone call from this bloke, okay, my man And I swear to you, it is now getting to the stage where I am beginning to look stupid because I have been promising them for the past three weeks, and I cannot afford to look stupid with them. I have to give them a definite answer. I promise you,

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	you have no idea the way these people operate. They will not take me seriously.
Johnson	You can't be hassled by mere…
Guppy	Underlings… it's not a question of…
Johnson	These people are mere They are there to do your bidding You can say, you can tell them that it happens, that it is not urgent to beat this guy [**Stuart Collier**] up immediately, you know, the trail is too warm or something like that.
Guppy	No, no, I appreciate that. That is not what I have been saying. I have been for the past few weeks telling them that I will get this number in two days I will get you the number, bla bla bla…
Johnson	But they keep ringing you up…
Johnson	I've used four contacts to track down information about [**Stuart**] **Collier**.
Johnson	One of the contacts might put two and two together, if he heard that this guy [**Stuart Collier**] had been beaten up.
Johnson	If it got out …
Guppy	That he'd been beaten up
Johnson	Beaten up It would inevitably get back to the contact
Guppy	But Boris there's absolutely no fucking proof; you just deny it I mean, there's no proof at all.
Johnson	Well yeah.
Guppy	I mean, you know, big deal. You're sitting in Brussels, and the day it happens, you're in Brussels, it's as simple as that.
Guppy	Well do it discreetly I if it's in any way going to look suspicious That's all I require—just the address: the address and the phone number … all right? Now I guarantee you, you have nothing to worry about. Believe me, all right. You have my personal guarantee I've never let you down, all right

Boris Johnson appears to be entertaining Darius Guppy's inquiry about the severity of **Stuart Collier**'s beating. He expresses apprehension that **Stuart Collier** may suspect him of revealing

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his telephone number and address.

	Publicly aired segment starts
Johnson	How badly are you, you gonna hurt this guy [**Stuart Collier**]?
Guppy	Not badly at all
Johnson	Oh, I really, I want to know
Guppy	Okay, let me explain to you
Johnson	If this guy [**Stuart Collier**] sues me, I will be fucking furious
Guppy	I guarantee you he [**Stuart Collier**] will not be seriously hurt.
Johnson	How badly hurt will he [**Stuart Collier**] be?
Guppy	He [**Stuart Collier**] will not have a broken limb or broken arm, he will not be put into intensive care or anything like that. He will probably get a couple of black eyes and a a cracked rib or
Johnson	Cracked rib!
Guppy	Nothing which you didn't suffer at rugby, okay? But he'll [**Stuart Collier**] get scared and that's what I want … I want him to do, I want him to have no idea who's behind it, okay?
	Publicaly aired segement ends

In the following segment, Boris Johnson expresses concern for his own predicament, as he is aware of **Stuart Collier**'s history. However, Darius Guppy assures him that the beating he will receive will be more severe than anything that **Stuart Collier** could possibly mete out

Guppy	And I want him **[Stuart Collier]** to realise that he's fucked someone off and whoever he's fucked off is not the sort of person he wants to mess around with
Johnson	[**Stuart**] **Collier** will go apeshit if he finds out who is responsible for the attack
Guppy	No, no, he [**Stuart Collier**] won't

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Johnson	If you fuck up in any way, I mean frankly, if he [**Stuart Collier**] suspects that I am involved in this … forget about me. Honestly, Darius, you have really got to think whether it's worth your while
Guppy	Because I guarantee you, Boris, I guarantee you these people are, you know, if someone hurts their boss or threatens their boss, I promise you it's just total sort of, it's like they're like dogs, they are like Alsatians or Rottweilers, they love their masters; they are affectionate towards them; they are evil bastards to everyone else.
Johnson	Yeah, yeah, good. Okay Darry, now, yeah, I mean, I but…

The segment that was aired on Channel 4's Dispatches programme in 2009 was edited into the wrong sequence. However, here, we provide it in the correct sequence.

	Publicly aired segment starts
Guppy	But I am telling you something Boris, this guy [**Stuart Collier**] has got my blood up alright, and there is nothing which I won't do to get my revenge. It's as simple as that.
	Publicaly aired segment ends

Darius Guppy reassures Boris Johnson that he poses a greater danger than **Stuart Collier**, in response to Johnson's concern about a potential comeback from the gutter journo

Guppy	Boris, can I tell you something? My honest opinion about myself is that I am a potential psychopath. The reason I am not a psychopath is because I have …
Johnson	A mother?
Guppy	No, I have discipline over my feelings, and it's as simple as that,
Johnson	He [**Stuart Collier**] is extremely dangerous, extremely dangerous.
Guppy	I don't give a fuck because no one he [**Stuart Collier**] has ever met is as psychopathic, potentially, as me.

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The conversation initially touches upon **Stuart Collier**, but then veers off onto other topics before eventually returning to him.

Guppy	Okay, right May I just tell you what my plan is? My plan is this: that even once you give it to me I will leave it for one month before I do anything. It will happen in one or two months' time. All right?
Johnson	You promise me that?
Guppy	The deal is basically you furnish me the information, and I will put it on ice for one month.
Guppy	You must have faith in me Boris.
Johnson	I do have faith in you.
Guppy	As far as I'm concerned, I have never told you what I require this number for. You do not know at all … so you are totally off the hook.
Guppy	You have nothing to fear. I give you my personal guarantee, okay, and my word of honour

In the following segment, Boris Johnson expresses additional concern about the possibility of being discovered by **Stuart Collier**, this time in terms of facing a lawsuit Furthermore, he confirms that a telephone number has been obtained.

	Publicaly aired segment starts
Johnson	Darry, if I get fucking, if I get sued…
Guppy	You will not, Boris. I swear to you. If you knew …
Johnson	Yeah, I'm not complaining… Again, I even got this bloody number for you.
Guppy	Okay…
	Publicaly aired segment ends

The conversation briefly shifts away from **Stuart Collier**, but then returns to him when Boris Johnson expresses a desire to end the call and placate Darius Guppy.

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	Publicly aired segment starts
Johnson	…Don't worry. Thank you Darry. I said I'd do it. I'll do it. Don't worry.
Guppy	Boris, I really mean it. I love you,…
	Publicaly aired segment ends
Guppy	… and I will owe you this, all right? And I'm a man who keeps my word.
	Telephone call ends

The only publicly aired segments of the recording can be heard here

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